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EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/960,162

Applicant(s)

WHISNANT ET AL.

Examiner

Peter K. Huntsinger

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-86 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/30/06 has been entered.

***Response to Amendment***

2. The affidavit filed on 3/30/06 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Kurokawa et al. Publication 2001/0049640 reference and the rejection of claims 1-86.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: "The system of claim 1" should be changed to "the system of claim 11" to avoid a lack of antecedent for said account. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 30 is objected to because of the following informalities: "Instructions for directing said processing unit" should be changed to "Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit". Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 24-26, 28-30, 40, 41, 44-46, 48, 50, 72, 73, 83, and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964.

Referring to claims 1 and 44, Cocotis et al. disclose a system for transferring a digital image to a fulfillment center to generate a photographic product from said digital image comprising: Instructions for directing a first processing unit (Interactive Photo Shop 402 of Fig. 4, col. 7, lines 19-25) to: Maintain a list of at least one fulfillment centers available to generate a photograph from said digital image (col. 7, lines 36-41), Receive a request from a photographer (patron 401 of Fig. 4, col. 7, lines 28-29) for a list of options to generate said photographic product from said digital image (col. 7, lines 29-32), Display said list of options for generating said photographic product (col. 7, lines 29-32), Receive an order from said photographer (col. 7, lines 29-32), Transmit routing information to said photographer wherein said routing information is for transmitting said digital image to a one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order, and Transmit said order to a fulfillment center processing unit (Photo Service Provider 404 of Fig. 4, col. 7, lines 19-25) of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers (col. 7, lines 36-46); and A media readable by said first processing unit that stores said

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instructions. It is inherent that the system of Cocotis et al. transmits routing information to the photographer processing unit for transmitting images. A website maintained by the photo shop sent to the patron includes a URL which would be routing information.

Referring to claims 2 and 45, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions further comprise: Instructions for directing said first processing unit to: Receive said digital image from said photographer processing unit (col. 7, line 26-28).

Referring to claims 3 and 46, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions to process said order further comprise: Instructions for directing said first processing unit to: Transmit said digital image to said fulfillment center processing unit (col. 7, line 26-28).

Referring to claims 5 and 48, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said first processing unit further comprise: Instructions for directing said first processing unit to: Determine said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order from parameters received in said order responsive to receiving said order (col. 7, lines 36-41).

Referring to claims 7 and 50, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions further comprise: Instructions for directing said first processing unit to: debit a photographer account responsive to receiving said order (col. 7-8, lines 63-67, 1-6).

Referring to claim 24, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said request includes parameters for selecting said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order (col. 7, lines 38-44).

Referring to claim 25, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said parameters include a location of a fulfillment center (col. 10, lines 29-33).

Referring to claim 26, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said parameters include sizes for said photographic product (col. 7, lines 13-16).

Referring to claim 28, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said parameters include a range of prices for said photographic product (col. 10, lines 29-33).

Referring to claims 29 and 72, Cocotis et al. disclose Instructions for directing a fulfillment center processing unit to: Receive said order from said first processing unit (col. 7, lines 36-46), Receive said digital image, and Process said order to generate said photographic product (col. 7, lines 57-58); and A media readable by said fulfillment center processing unit that stores said instructions.

Referring to claims 30 and 73, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit further comprising: Instructions for directing said processing unit to: Store said digital image to a memory. It is inherent that the digital image is stored at the fulfillment center.

Referring to claims 40 and 83, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said list of options includes photographic product sizes (col. 7, lines 13-16).

Referring to claims 41 and 84, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said list of options includes types of paper available for said photographic product (col. 7, lines 29-32).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

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7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4, 6, 8-14, 31-34, 42, 47, 49, 51-57, 74-77, and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964 as applied to claims 1, 7, 29, 30, 44, 50, 72, and 73 above, and further in view of well known prior art.

Referring to claims 4 and 47, Cocotis et al. disclose said digital image being transmitted to said fulfillment center processing unit, but do not disclose expressly receiving a confirmation after transmission. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to receive a confirmation after a transmission (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to notify the photo shop that the images have been sent correctly.

Referring to claims 6 and 49, Cocotis et al. disclose sending an order, but do not disclose expressly receiving a confirmation after the order is processed. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to receive a confirmation after an order is processed (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to notify the photo shop that the images have been processed correctly.

Referring to claims 8 and 51, Cocotis et al. disclose debiting a photographer account, but do not disclose expressly receiving funds and transferring then to an account. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art to deposit funds into an account (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to establish a line of credit for the photographer.

Referring to claims 9 and 52, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said funds are transferred electronically (col. 7, lines 33-35).

Referring to claims 10 and 53, Cocotis et al. disclose transmitting said order but do not disclose expressly transmitting responsive to receiving funds. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to receive funds before providing a service (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to verify the patron has the money for the service.

Referring to claims 11 and 54, Cocotis et al. disclose debiting a photographer account, but do not disclose expressly receiving funds and transferring then to an account. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to deposit funds into an account (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to establish a line of credit for the photographer.

Referring to claims 12 and 55, Cocotis et al. disclose debiting a photographer account, but do not disclose expressly periodically debiting an account. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to periodically debit an account (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to charge a monthly fee for using a service.



Referring to claims 13 and 56, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said first processing unit further comprises: Instructions for directing said first processing unit to: Maintain a count of a number of orders that said one of said at least one fulfillment centers receives (col. 8, lines 14-23).

Referring to claims 14 and 57, Cocotis et al. disclose maintaining a count of a number of orders that said one of said at least one fulfillment centers receives, but do not disclose expressly debiting a charge after the count reaches a predetermined number. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to charge after a count has reached a predetermined number (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to avoid having to charge a customer for each transaction.

Referring to claims 31 and 74, Cocotis et al. disclose storing said digital image at the fulfillment center, but do not disclose expressly deleting the image after the processing the order. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to delete an image after an order has been completed (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to obtain memory space by deleting unneeded information.

Referring to claims 32 and 75, Cocotis et al. disclose storing said digital image at the fulfillment center, but do not disclose expressly deleting the image after the a period of time. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to delete a data after a period of time has passed (See MPEP 2144.03).

The motivation for doing so would have been to clear a system's RAM at defined intervals.

Referring to claims 33 and 76, Cocotis et al. disclose ordering digital images, but do not disclose expressly transmitting a status periodically. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to periodically transmit order status (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to notify the photo shop whether the order is completed or not.

Referring to claims 34 and 77, Cocotis et al. disclose a plurality of fulfillment centers, but do not disclose expressly transmitting an availability of the fulfillment centers. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to transmit an availability of a service (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to notify the photo shop whether a particular service is available or not.

Referring to claims 42 and 85, Cocotis et al. disclose a list of options but do not disclose expressly wherein the list includes graphics available. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to insert graphics into ordered photographs (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to allow a customer to insert logos and text into ordered photographs.

9. Claims 15-20, 22, 43, 58-63, 65, 67-69, 71, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964 as applied to claims 1 and 44 above, and further in view of Arledge, Jr. et al. Patent 6,535,294.

Referring to claims 15 and 58, Cocotis et al. disclose a list of fulfillment centers but do not disclose expressly a web page listing said fulfillment centers. Arledge, Jr. et al. disclose maintaining a web page listing said fulfillment centers with hyper-linked text pointing to web pages listing said options for said fulfillment centers (Fig. 7, col. 14, lines 16-31). Cocotis et al. and Arledge, Jr. et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering photographs. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to maintain a web page of fulfillment centers with links to their products. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide an interface for a customer to choose a fulfillment center and view the products. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Arledge, Jr. et al. with Cocotis et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 15 and 58.

Referring to claims 16 and 59, Cocotis et al. disclose Instructions for directing a photographer processing unit to: Establish a connection with said first processing unit (col. 7, lines 29-32), Receive said request for said list of options of said one of said at least one fulfillment centers, Transmit said request to said first processing unit, Receive said list of options from said first processing unit, and Display said list of options to said photographer (col. 7, lines 29-32); and A second media readable by said photographer processing unit that stores said instructions. Cocotis et al. do not disclose expressly receiving and displaying the list of fulfillment centers. Arledge, Jr. et al. disclose receiving a list of said at least one fulfillment centers from a first processing unit, and displaying said list (Fig. 7, col. 14, lines 16-31). Cocotis et al. and Arledge, Jr. et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering photographs. At the time

of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to send and display a list of fulfillment centers. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the customer to select a fulfillment center from the list. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Arledge, Jr. et al. with Cocotis et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 16 and 59.

Referring to claims 17 and 60, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit further comprise: Instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to: Receive an input of said order, and Transmit said order to said first processing unit (col. 7, lines 29-32).

Referring to claims 18 and 61, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit further comprise: Instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to: Receive said routing information from said first processing unit. It is inherent that the system of Cocotis et al. transmits routing information to the photographer processing unit for transmitting images. A website maintained by the photo shop sent to the patron includes a URL which would be routing information.

Referring to claims 19 and 62, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to: instructions for directing said processing unit to: transmit said digital image to said first processing unit responsive receiving said receiving said routing information (col. 7, lines 26-28).

Referring to claims 20 and 63, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit further comprises: Instructions for directing

said photographer unit to: Transmit said digital image to said one of said at least one fulfillment center using said routing information responsive to receiving said routing information (col. 7, lines 26-28).

Referring to claims 22 and 65, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said photographer processing unit to: Instructions for directing said photographer unit to: Transmit an account identification to said first processing unit responsive to transmitting said order (col. 7, lines 32-35).

Referring to claims 43 and 86, Cocotis et al. disclose a list of options but do not disclose expressly wherein the list includes fulfillment centers. Arledge, Jr. et al. disclose a list of options includes fulfillment centers that provide particular options (Fig. 7, col. 14, lines 16-31). Cocotis et al. and Arledge, Jr. et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering photographs. At the time of the invention, it would have obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include fulfillment centers in a list of options. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the customer to select a fulfillment center from the list. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Arledge, Jr. et al. with Cocotis et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 43 and 86.

Referring to claim 67, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said request includes parameters for selecting said one of said at least one fulfillment centers to process said order (col. 7, lines 38-44).

Referring to claim 68, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said parameters include a location of a fulfillment center (col. 10, lines 29-33).

Referring to claim 69, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said parameters include sizes for said photographic product (col. 7, lines 13-16).

Referring to claim 71, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said parameters include a range of prices for said photographic product (col. 10, lines 29-33).

10. Claims 21 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964 and Arledge, Jr. et al. Patent 6,535,294 as applied to claims 20 and 63 above, and further in view of well known prior art.

Referring to claims 21 and 64, Cocotis et al. disclose transmitting said digital image to said first processing unit, but does not disclose expressly a transmitting a confirmation. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to transmit a confirmation after a transmission (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to determine if the images have been sent correctly.

11. Claims 23, 66, and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964 and Arledge, Jr. et al. Patent 6,535,294 as applied to claims 17, 60, and 67 above, and further in view of Garfinkle et al. Patent 6,017,157.

Referring to claims 23 and 66, Cocotis et al. disclose ordering digital images, but do not disclose expressly a graphic instruction set. Garfinkle et al. disclose wherein said order includes a graphic instruction set for said photograph (col. 5, lines 20-29).

Cocotis et al. and Garfinkle et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering digital photographs. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow a graphic instruction set for a photograph. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow customization of a photograph to the particular desires of a customer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Garfinkle et al. with Cocotis et al. and Arledge, Jr. et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 23 and 66.

Referring to claim 70, Cocotis et al. disclose ordering digital images, but do not disclose expressly selecting a fulfillment center based on graphics available. Garfinkle et al. disclose wherein said parameters include graphics available for said photographic product (col. 5, lines 20-29). Cocotis et al. and Garfinkle et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering digital photographs. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to select a fulfillment center based graphics available. The motivation for doing so would have been to select a fulfillment center capable of providing photos in the desired format. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Garfinkle et al. with Cocotis et al. and Arledge, Jr. et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 70.

12. Claims 27, 35-38, and 78-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964 as applied to claims 24, 29, and 72 above, and further in view of Garfinkle et al. Patent 6,017,157.

Referring to claim 27, Cocotis et al. disclose ordering digital images, but do not disclose expressly selecting a fulfillment center based on graphics available. Garfinkle et al. disclose wherein said parameters include graphics available for said photographic product (col. 5, lines 20-29). Cocotis et al. and Garfinkle et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering digital photographs. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to select a fulfillment center based graphics available. The motivation for doing so would have been to select a fulfillment center capable of providing photos in the desired format. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Garfinkle et al. with Cocotis et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 27.

Referring to claims 35 and 78, Cocotis et al. disclose generating a digital image with a fulfillment center, but do not disclose expressly generating a proof from a digital image and a graphic set. Garfinkle et al. disclose generating a proof from said digital image and a graphic instruction set (col. 8, lines 13-19). Cocotis et al. and Garfinkle et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of ordering digital photographs. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art generate a proof from a digital image and graphic instruction set. The motivation for doing so would have been to evaluate the images for errors before printing the order. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Garfinkle et al. with Cocotis et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 35 and 78.

Referring to claims 36 and 79, Garfinkle et al. disclose instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit further comprises: Instructions for directing said



fulfillment center processing unit to: Read said graphic instruction set from said order (col. 5, lines 20-29).

Referring to claims 37 and 80, Garfinkle et al. disclose instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit further comprises: Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to: Receive said graphic instruction set from a photographer processing unit (col. 5, lines 20-29).

Referring to claims 38 and 81, Cocotis et al. disclose wherein said instructions for directing said fulfillment processing unit further comprising: Instructions for directing said fulfillment center processing unit to: Receive said digital image from said first processing unit (col. 7, lines 52-54).

13. Claims 39 and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocotis et al. Patent 6,980,964 and Garfinkle et al. Patent 6,017,157 as applied to claims 35 and 78 above, and further in view of well known prior art.

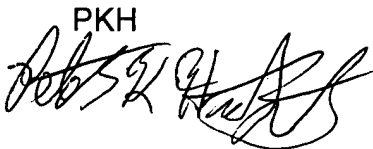
Referring to claims 39 and 82, Cocotis et al. disclose receiving said digital image at a fulfillment center, but do not disclose expressly receiving said digital image from a photographer processing unit. Official Notice is taken that it is well known and obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to transmit a digital image to a fulfillment center from a photographer processing unit (See MPEP 2144.03). The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce the traffic through the photo shop network.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PKH  


  
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER